Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following sentence as the first line of the specification:

This application is a 371 National Stage filing of PCT/EP2005/002449 filed March 4, 2005, which claims priority to EP 04090121.7 filed March 29, 2004, EP 04090086.2 filed March 5, 2004, and US Provisional Patent Application No. 60/549945 filed March 5, 2004, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 77 lines 9-22 with the following:

The conditions and buffer specified by the manufacturer were used. In addition, the reaction preparation for the first strand synthesis contained the following substances:

3 µg Total RNA

5 µM 3'-Primer (OK1rev1: 5'-GACTCAACCACATAACACACAAAGATC) (SEQ ID NO: 6)

0.83 µM dNTP Mix

The reaction preparation was incubated for 5 minutes at 75°C and subsequently cooled to room temperature.

The 1st strand buffer, RNase inhibitor, and DTT were then added and incubated for 2 minutes at 42°C before 1 µL Superscript RT DNA polymerase was added and the reaction preparation was incubated for 50 minutes at 42°C.

Conditions for the amplification of the first strand by means of PCR:

1 µL of the reaction preparation of the first strand synthesis

0.25 µM 3'Primer (OK1rev2: 5'- TGGTAACGAGGCAAATGCAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 7)

0.25 µM 5'Primer (OK1fwd2: 5'-ATCTCTTATCACACCACCTCCAATG) (SEQ ID NO: 8)

Please replace the paragraphs at page 87 lines 4 to page 88 line 23 with the following:

The part of the open reading frame from position 11 to position 288 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-R9 (GGAACCGATAATGCCTACATGCTC) (SEQ ID NO: 9) and Os_ok1-F6 (AAAACTCGAGGAGGATCAATGACGTCGCTGCGGCCCCTC) (SEQ ID NO: 10) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML123.

The part of the open reading frame from position 250 to position 949 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F4 (CCAGGTTAAGTTTGGTGAGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 11) and Os_ok1-R6 (CAAAGCACGATATCTGACCTGT) (SEQ ID NO: 12) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML120.

The part of the open reading frame from position 839 to position 1761 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F7 (TTGTTCGCGGGATATTGTCAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 13) and Os_ok1-R7 (GACAAGGGCATCAAGAGTAGTATC) (SEQ ID NO: 14) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML121.

The part of the open reading frame from position 1571 to position 3241 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F8 (ATGATGCGCCTGATAATGCT) (SEQ ID NO: 15) and Os_ok1-R4 (GGCAAACAGTATGAAGCACGA) (SEQ ID NO: 16) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1

(Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML119.

The part of the open reading frame from position 2777 to position 3621 was amplified with the help of polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F3 (CATTTGGATCAATGGAGGATG) (SEQ ID NO: 17) and Os_ok1-R2 (CTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 18) as a primer on genomic DNA of rice. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML122.

The cloning together of the sub-parts of the open reading frame of OK1 was carried out as follows.

A 700 base pair along *ApaI* fragment of pML120, containing part of the open reading frame of OK1, was cloned in the *ApaI* site of pML121. The plasmid obtained was designated as pMI47.

A 960 base pair long fragment containing the areas of vectors from pML120 and pML123 coding for OK1 was amplified by means of polymerase chain reaction. In doing so, the primers Os_ok1-F4 (see above) and Os_ok1-R9 (see above), each in a concentration of 50 nm, and the primers Os_ok1-F6 and Os_ok1-R6, each in a concentration of 500 nm, were used. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pMI44.

An 845 base pair long fragment of pML122 was re-amplified for introducing a XhoI site after the stop codon with the primers Os_ok1-F3 (see above) and Os_ok1-R2Xho (AAAACTCGAGCTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 20) and cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as t pMI45.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 89 lines 28 to page 90 line 9 with the following:

The plasmid pIR94 was obtained by amplifying the promoter of the globulin gene from rice by means of a polymerase chain reaction (30 x 20 sec 94 °C, 20 sec 62 °C, 1 min 68 °C, 4 mM Mg_2SO_4) with the primers glb1-F2

(AAAACAATTGGCGCCTGGAGGGAGGAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 21) and glb1-R1 (AAAACAATTGATGATCAATCAGACAATCACTAGAA) (SEQ ID NO: 22) on the genomic DNA of rice of the variety M202 with High Fidelity Taq Polymerase (Invitrogen, catalogue number 11304-011) and cloned in pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20).

The plasmid pIR115 was obtained by cloning a synthetic piece of DNA consisting of the two oligonucleotides X1 (TGCAGGCTGCAGAGCTCCTAGGCTCGAGTTAACACTAGTAAGCTTAATTAAG ATATCATTTAC) (SEQ ID NO: 23) and X2 (AATTGTAAATGATATCTTAATTAAGCTTACTAGTGTTAACTCGAGCCTAGGA GCTCTGCAGCCTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 24) in the vector pGSV71 excised with *Sda*I and *Mun*I.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 93 lines 27 to page 94 line 27 with the following:

First the plasmid pIR96 was manufactured. The plasmid pIR96 was obtained by cloning a synthetic piece of DNA consisting of the two oligonucleotides X1 (TGCAGGCTGCAGAGCTCCTAGGCTCGAGTTAACACTAGTAAGCTTAATTAAG ATATCATTTAC) (SEQ ID NO: 23) and X2 (AATTGTAAATGATATCTTAATTAAGCTTACTAGTGTTAACTCGAGCCTAGGA GCTCTGCAGCCTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 24) into the vector pGSV71 excised with *SdaI* and *MunI*. The plasmid obtained was excised with *SdaI* and the protruding 3'-ends were smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase. The plasmid obtained was excised with *SdaI*, the protruding 3'-ends were smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase, and a 197 base pair large *HindIII* / *SphI* fragment from pBinAR, smoothed with T4 DNA polymerase (Höfgen und Willmitzer, 1990, Plant Science 66, 221-230), and containing the termination signal of the octopine synthase gene from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, was inserted. The plasmid obtained was designated as pIR96.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 95 lines 29 to page 96 line 7 with the following:

The *nos* terminator from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (Depicker et al., 1982, Journal of Molecular and Applied Genetics 1: 561-573) was amplified with the primers P9 (ACTTCTgCAgCggCCgCgATCgTTCAAACATTTggCAATAAAgTTTC) (SEQ ID NO: 25) and P10 (TCTAAgCTTggCgCCgCTAgCAgATCTgATCTAgTAACATAgATgACACC) (SEQ ID NO: 26) (25 cycles, 30 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 58 °C, 30 sec 72 °C), digested with *HindIII* and *PstI,* and cloned into the plasmid pML4 having been excised with the same enzymes. The plasmid contained was designated as pML4-nos. A 1986 base pair long fragment containing the promoter of the polyubiquitin gene from maize (Genbank Acc.: 94464, Christensen et al., 1992, Plant Mol. Biol. 18: 675-689) and the first intron of the same gene, shortened through digestion by *ClaI* and re-insertion, were cloned into this vector. The plasmid contained was designated as pML8.